

FRANCES M. TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD

Chief Judge

District Court of Guam

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Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, will be retiring from her post at the District Court of Guam on March 31, 2016.

Rossanna has fruitfully served the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in key positions within the local criminal justice system for over thirty-six years. Her career in human service began in 1980 with the Government of Guam as a Youth Service Worker with the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA), and continued with the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) as a Social Worker with Child Protective Services (CPS).

Rossanna joined the United States (U.S.) Probation and Pretrial Services Office in 1993, and began supervising defendants and offenders on Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan. While a supervision officer, Rossanna served as the Coordinator for the Home Confinement Program for eight years, and oversaw the expansion of the program to the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. She assumed the role of Acting Chief Probation and Pretrial Services Officer in June 2007 upon the retirement of her predecessor.

In November 2007, Rossanna was appointed as Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands by the Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge for District Court of Guam, and the Honorable Alex R. Munson, then Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands. She has served in that role for almost nine years.

As Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer under the leadership of Chief Judges Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Ramona V. Manglona, Rossanna implemented an automated system to expedite the production of bail and presentence reports, oversaw the deployment of evidence-based risk assessment tools to aid in making recommendations to the Court regarding individualized strategies for supervising defendants, and initiated "Carmen's Closet" in the Guam office, an innovative program that assists individuals with clothing needs for employment. During her tenure she also began a sex offender treatment program, a program to offer support services to individuals as authorized under the Second Chance Act, and she expanded the Location Monitoring Program as an alternative to incarceration for pretrial, sentencing, and revocation hearings.

The process of selecting her successor has begun, and a selection panel consisting of the appointing authorities, Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and chaired by Perry Taitano, former Administrator of the Judiciary of Guam, will soon announce the new Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer.